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FID NEWS BULLETIN

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CONFERENCES

Symposium on Scientific Information

A symposium on Scientific Information was held in Poços de Caldas, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, on July 11, 1961, under the sponsorship of the Brazilian Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Brazilian Institute of Bibliography and Documentation of the National Research Council. The main subject of the meeting was the Organization of Technical and Scientific Information in Brazil. The working-paper was the publication „Brazilian specialized libraries, a guide for bibliographical information exchange." The meeting was attended by delegates from several states of Brazil.

Symbolic Languages in Data Processing

With reference to our announcement of the Symposium in issue No. 7, July, 1961 of „FID News Bulletin", we have been informed that the date of this Symposium has now been changed from September to *24-31 March*, 1962.

Comitato Nazionale per la Produttivita

Une réunion de la Commission d'Etude et de Coordonnement des Programmes d'Information Scientifique et Technique a eu lieu le 14 juillet. Cette Commission, constituée en juillet 1956, compte parmi ses membres les représentants des organismes suivants: Ministère de l'Industrie, Ministère du Travail, Ministère de l'Instruction, la Confédération Générale de l'Industrie, la Confédération Italienne de Dirigeants d'Entreprise, les Confédérations Syndicales, le Conseil National des Recherches, l'Institut Finsider et le Comité National de la Productivité. Elle a pour but de coordonner à l'échelon national et international tous les programmes visant à promouvoir les services d'information et de documentation technique et scientifique dans les divers secteurs culturels et économiques du Pays, et tout particulièrement la collaboration entre les Centres spécialisés d'information et de documentation, l'enseignement et la vulgarisation des techniques d'information, la diffusion des moyens et des instruments nécessaires à l'information même.

Les membres de la Commission présents à la réunion du 14 juillet ont formulé le voeu que, à la reprise des activités régulières du C.N.P., on puisse aussi donner un nouvel essor aux travaux de la Commission, qui a été jusqu'ici le seul et très efficient organisme existant en Italie en ce qui concerne l'étude des techniques d'information et la planification et organisation des services y relatifs sur la base d'une méthodologie précise et efficace. La Commission a approuvé en principe l'idée d'un Congrès National de l'Information qui aurait lieu au mois de novembre 1961, et de l'organisation de trois cours de perfectionnement destinés aux techniciens de l'information scientifique et technique auprès des entreprises.

SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

The National Library of Peking

The largest library in China, the National Library of Peking contains six million volumes. Each publishing house in China is required to send a copy of each of its publications to this library within three days after it comes off the press.

The National library of Peking contains the collections made by the Imperial Library throughout the Southern Sung (1127-1259), Yuan, Ming and Ching dynasties. The library was founded in 1912 after the downfall of the Manchu regime.

Stored in the library are China's earliest known recordings on tortoise shell oracle tablets dating back some 3,000 years, metal and stone engravings from the dawn of civilization, and manuscripts in long rolls dating from the 5th to the 10th century.

Over 220,000 ancient and medieval volumes, many of which are perfectly protected under camphor wood covers in cedar (machilus nanmu) cases, constitute one of the world's rarest collections. Over half of them have been gathered during the past 12 years, mostly through the public-spirited contributions of private owners.

The Library has increased its collection of the only extant copy of the Yung Lo Encyclopedia, China's most voluminous encyclopedia compiled over 540 years ago, to 215 volumes. The full encyclopedia comprises 11,095 volumes.

As a centre for exchanging books with foreign countries, the library conducts an international book exchange service with 106 countries and areas. Among its exchange partners are the Lenin State Library in the Soviet Union, the British Museum, the New York Public Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale of France, the National Library of India and the National Diet Library of Japan. Last year the Library sent over 135,000 books and periodicals abroad and received 111,000 in return.

(condensed from a contribution by Chi Yen-lang)

RESEARCH

Current trends in scientific research

In 1960, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided that a survey should be made on current trends of enquiry in the fields of the natural sciences and the dissemination and application for peaceful ends of such scientific knowledge. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of Unesco jointly appointed Professor Pierre Auger, a leading physicist, formerly head of the Unesco Natural Sciences Department, to collect data and draft the report. Twenty-nine intergovernmental organisations, sixty-six international non-governmental organisations and scientific unions, and the national research organisations of forty-two countries were consulted. The list of experts consulted in their individual capacity contains the names of leading scientists in all countries of the world.

Professor Auger faced a number of difficulties. These in the first place resulted from the essentially transitory nature of the required information. Then the problem arose of the method to be adopted. It was deemed wise to consider not only the factors responsible for the multiplication of specialized disciplines but also the opposite movement towards synthesis. Nor could one forget that any description of scientific research which drew a hard and fast line between pure and applied science would dis-

tort the natural interplay between knowledge and action.

The general outline of the survey is based on a functional division of scientific research rather than on a purely academic classification of sciences. The book is divided into three parts: Part One, „Trends of scientific research", has six main chapters: I - Fundamental sciences; II - The earth and space sciences; III - Medical sciences; IV - Food and agricultural sciences; V - Fuel and power research; VI - Industrial research. Part Two deals with the main trends affecting the organisation of scientific research and the dissemination of results, and Part Three, general and special recommendations concerning scientific research, the dissemination of scientific knowledge and the application of such knowledge to physical needs. These three parts are preceded by a long introduction by Professor Auger.

(„Current trends in scientific research" by Prof. P. Auger, published by Unesco, Paris, in July 1961, 33/-; $ 6,75)

Serial publications

Scientific and technical serial publications of the world will be the subject of a study to be conducted by the Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress through support from the National Science Foundation. The study has two objectives; a compilation of a bibliography of sources on scientific and technical serials and a count of the current serial titles of the world by country and by subject. The bibliography and the census will serve the purpose of bringing under bibliographical control a body of literature essential to librarians in planning acquisitional and informational services.

At the present time, the „World List of Scientific Periodicals", published in 1952, is the basis for estimates of the number of scientific serials currently being published throughout the world. The distinction between the present study and such publications as the „List" and the 1956-57 Unesco study, „Statistics of Newspapers and Other Periodicals", is that the present study will serve as a source both for information concerning the most recently published bibliographies of scientific serials and for a verifiable statistical count based on these sources.

The one-year study will be under the direction of Charles M. Gottschalk, Head of the Reference Section in the Science and Technology Division. Preliminary results are expected to be published in 6 months.

Machine translation

The European Productivity Agency, 2 rue André-Pascal, Paris, recently issued a „Summary QR 1834" prepared by the EPA Question and Answer Service, on *Machine translation*. In the introduction a summary is given of an article by Dr. Sydney M. Lamb of the University of California on „Advances in machine translation" (New Scientist, 2 Febr. 1961), other introductions to the subject cited in the EPA report are: „Machine translation of languages", edited by Locke and Booth, published in 1951 by John Wiley and Sons; and „Automatic language translation, Lexical and technical aspects" by A. G. Oettinger, published in 1960 by the Harvard University Press.

The report contains a list of bodies carrying out research on machine translation in China, Czechoslovakia, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Rumania, Spain, the United Kingdom, USA, USSR, Yugoslavia, and Euratom/CETIS. This is followed by a list of four conferences and a bibliography of 347 books, bibliographies, reports, papers read at conferences, monographs, etc., and 361 articles in periodicals.

The Summary does not pretend to be complete, the EPA would appreciate receipt of additional information, which then will appear in supplements.

TRAINING COURSES

Research of scientific literature

An advanced course in research in the field of scientific literature organized by the Instituto Brasileiro de Bibliografia e Documentação is being held in Rio de Janeiro from August 1 to October 27, 1961. Prof. James van Luik, Professor of the Fulbright Commission, lectures on a comparative study of the technical processes as found in the USA and European countries, methods of research of scientific literature, and problems in the development of science libraries.

UNIVERSAL DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION

666.9 Gypsum, lime, cement, concrete

An ad hoc meeting at the General Secretariat of FID on August 16 was attended by Mr. Van der Leeuw (ENCI, Dutch Cement Industry), Mr. Lloyd (BSI, London), Miss Clara Müller (Bauzentrum, Stuttgart) and the CCC Secretariat. Mr. Engel, Rapporteur for UDC 66 was unable to attend the meeting.

The various proposals published and revised in the past years were carefully examined in the light of the original proposal submitted by ENCI in cooperation with Belgian, French and Swiss cement industries, and latest comments received.

The text for a final P Note was approved. The full new text of 666.9 will appear in September this year.

French UDC edition for libraries

On August 17 and 18, Mr. Lorphèvre, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Schuchmann, CCC members, met at the General Secretariat of FID for finalizing a draft for a UDC Handbook for use by libraries in Africa. The publication is made under contract with Unesco.

PERSONALIA

Mr. J. Th. Kummer, who has given financial advice as accountant of FID for many years, celebrated his 80th birthday at his home in Leeuwarden, Ferdinand Bolstraat 49, on September 6, 1961.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's new address is: „Sarada", 307/3 Main Road 4, Bangalore 3, India.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Visits received

Mrs. S. Osmólska, Custodian of the Warsaw Public Library, visited the General Secretariat on August 7 and 8, 1961, for discussing various UDC questions.

Prof. Dr. H. van de Waal of the University of Leyden visited the General Secretariat on August 8, 1961, to discuss the possibility of assistance by FID in the elaboration of an international classification system of subjects depicted in photographic reproductions of pictures. As a preliminary step, the International Center for Fixed and Animated Photography (CIP) wishes that an inventory be made of systems in use.

Mr. J. B. A. Nijssen, secretary of the Applied Linguistics Foundation in the Netherlands, visited the General Secretariat on August 10 for a discussion of translation programmes and possible relations between FID and the Foundation. The Foundation organizes the Third Practical Summer School of Languages in The Hague from August 28 to September 8, 1961.

Mr. A. Kirsipuu of the Translations Division of the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, visited the General Secretariat on August 14, 1961, to obtain information on FID's linguistics and translations programme.

Mrs. Lydia Vilentchuk, Director of Documentation at the Center of Scientific and Technological Information in Tel-Aviv, visited the Secretariat on August 28 in order to be able to know better the main activities of FID. The conversation concerned mainly the training of documentalists, the special libraries and the technical information services.

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RENEWAL 1962

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